

Message Text

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TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

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TAGS:PFOR, CY, TU

SUBJECT: NOON BRIEFING - TURKISH AID-CYPRUS

FOLLOWING ARE PERTINENT Q'S AND A'S AT NOON PRESS BRIEFING
FEBRUARY 6 WITH DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ANDERSON:

QUOTE: Q: WHAT ABOUT THE BITSIOS MEETING?

A: THE SECRETARY WILL NOT BE MEETING WITH FOREIGN
MINISTER BITSIOS. AS WE ALL KNOW, TURKISH FOREIGN
MINISTER ESENBEL CANCELLED HIS MEETING WITH THE
SECRETARY, AND IN VIEW OF THE SITUATION AT THIS TIME --
WHICH WAS TO HAVE A DISCUSSION WITH BOTH FOREIGN MINISTERS
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WITH REGARD TO THE CYPRUS SITUATION -- IT WAS DECIDED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO MEETING AT THIS TIME WITH FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS.

BUT I WOULD LIKE TO ADD ON THIS, IF I MAY, THAT THE SECRETARY CLEARLY LOOKS FORWARD TO MEETING WITH BOTH FOREIGN MINISTERS AT A FUTURE DATE, BUT THERE IS NOTHING SCHEDULED ON THIS AT ALL AT THIS TIME.

Q: THERE IS NO POINT IN MEETING WITH ONE OF THEM -- IT -- IS THIS --

A: WELL, IT WAS AGREED THAT BECAUSE OF THE CANCELLATION

OF THE TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT, THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER TO POSTPONE IT IN VIEW OF THE RATHER FLUID SITUATION.

Q: DO YOU STILL HOPE FOR SOME KIND OF MEETING WITH EITHER THE GREEKS OR THE TURKS, DURING THE TRIP? OR YOU ARE NOW PUTTING YOUR SITES OFF UNTIL AFTER THAT?

A: I CANNOT GIVE YOU ANYTHING ON THIS AT THIS TIME. THE SECRETARY DOES LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING BOTH FOREIGN MINISTERS, BUT THERE IS NOTHING ON THIS AT THIS TIME.

Q: WAS CONSIDERATION GIVEN TO A MEETING WITH BITSIOS FOR BILATERAL REASONS?

A: I CAN'T ANSWER THAT.

Q: WE ASKED YESTERDAY A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS REGARDING THE TURKISH AID SITUATION. I DON'T WANT TO GO ALL THROUGH THE QUESTIONS AGAIN. DO YOU HAVE ANY ANSWERS FOR US ON ANY OF THEM?

A: LET MEMAKE A COUPLE OF COMMENTS HERE THAT WILL TRY AND ANSWER SOME OF THEM. LET ME JUST SAY IT THIS WAY, THAT CLEARLY IN THE PAST, IN THE EARLY PERIOD FOLLOWING THE INVASION OF CYPRUS, THAT THERE WERE DIFFERENCES OF INTERPRETATION WITH REGARD TO THE LAW.

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I MIGHT ADD PARENTHETICALLY HERE THAT SINCE THAT TIME THERE HAVE BEEN THREE AMENDMENTS TO THE ORIGINAL LAW PASSED BY CONGRESS, WHICH WE ALL KNOW ABOUT. AND I THINK ALL I CAN SAY HERE IS THAT -- IN LOOKING AT THE PAST -- I JUST DON'T THINK THAT I CAN BE CHARGED HERE WITH WRITING ANY CONCLUSIVE CHAPTER ON THIS ASPECT. BUT WHAT I WOULD LIKE TO ADDRESS MYSELF TO IS, SHALL WE SAY,

THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT NOW.

AND I MIGHT ADD THAT THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY MET IN THE WHITE HOUSE TODAY WITH THE CHAIRMAN AND RANKING HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, AND WE ARE TRYING TO WORK OUT A COOPERATIVE SOLUTION TO THIS VERY TRAGIC PROBLEM. PENDING THAT EFFORT, WE REALLY DON'T FEEL THAT WE WANT TO SAY ANY MORE THAN WE'VE ALREADY SAID ON

THIS QUESTION.

Q: ONE OF THE QUESTIONS YESTERDAY WAS WHETHER THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAD AT ANY TIME IN ANY WAY INFORMED THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT THAT IT WAS USING U.S. MILITARY EQUIPMENT IN A WAY THAT WAS NOT IN CONFORMITY WITH THE MILITARY SALES ACT.

A: WELL, ON THAT, LET ME PUT IT THIS WAY: I THINK IT'S QUITE OBVIOUS FROM THE ACTIONS THAT WE TOOK BETWEEN THE INVASION AND OCTOBER 29 AND THEN SUBSEQUENT ACTIONS THAT WE TOOK IN FULL COMPLIANCE WITH THE LAW -- THAT IT'S QUITE OBVIOUS THAT THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT WAS AWARE OF THE POSITION OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. I WOULD LIKE TO JUST LEAVE IT RIGHT THERE.

Q: THERE WAS A LEGAL STUDY. PRESUMABLY IT WAS COMPLETED. WHAT WERE THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE LEGAL STUDY HERE AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT ON THE ISSUE?

A: THERE WAS A LEGAL STUDY. THIS IS AN INTERNAL DOCUMENT. IT IS NOT GOING TO BE MADE PUBLIC. I'M NOT GOING TO DISCUSS THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE DOCUMENT. THE SECRETARY HAS HAD IT. THIS HAS BEEN DISCUSSED WITH UNCLASSIFIED

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MEMBER OF CONGRESS. AND I JUST HAVE TO LEAVE IT THERE.

Q: BUT EVEN BEFORE YOU SAID THAT I WANTED TO TAKE YOU BACK TO YOUR REFERENCE TO DIFFERENCES OF INTERPRETATION.

I SUPPOSE SOME OF US COULD ASSUME THE DIFFERENCES COULD BE BETWEEN THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND CONGRESS. BUT THERE IS ALWAYS THE POSSIBILITY THERE WERE DIFFERENCES OF INTERPRETATION WITHIN THE STATE DEPARTMENT; IN FACT, DIFFERENCES OF INTERPRETATION IN THE STUDY.

CAN YOU ENLIGHTEN US IN THAT RESPECT? WAS THE STATE DEPARTMENT CONVINCED THAT THE ARMS WERE BEING USED PERHAPS IN AN ILLEGAL WAY, OR WERE THERE DIFFERENCES

WITHIN THIS DEPARTMENT?

A: NUMBER ONE, I'M NOT GOING TO GET INTO THE DETAILS OF ONE OR MORE STUDIES THAT MAY HAVE BEEN UNDERTAKEN. HERE WAS NO DIFFERENCE OF VIEW THAT I AM AWARE OF DIFFERENCES OF INTERPRETATION BETWEEN THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES. BUT I WANT TO ADD HERE THAT, AS WE KNOW, THERE HAVE BEEN AND CONTINUE TO BE VERY CLOSE CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN NOT ONLY THE SECRETARY BUT OTHER

MEMBERS OF THIS DEPARTMENT -- THE PRESIDENT IS INVOLVED IN THIS -- WITH THE INTERESTED MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AS WELL AS THE CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP TO TRY AND WORK OUT A SATISFACTORY SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM THAT WAS OUTLINED BY THE WHITE HOUSE YESTERDAY IN THE STATEMENT THAT I ALSO READ INTO THE RECORD HERE.

Q: IS IT NOT A FACT THAT THE TURKS WERE TOLD THAT THERE HAD NEVER BEEN A RETROACTIVE CUT-OFF OF ARMS IN THE PIPELINE, EVEN WEHN ARMS EMBARGOS WERE IMPOSED, THAT PIPELINE ARMS WOULD CONTINUE, THAT THERE WOULD BE NO CUT-OFF OF STUFF IN THE PIPELINE, THE \$200 MILLION WORTH OF GOODS WOULD CONTINUE?

A: I'D HAVE TO CHECK THAT.

Q: SO I GATHER THEN THAT THE POSITION OF THE TURKS --
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THE U.S. POSITION THAT THE TURKS WERE AWARE OF IT -- IS THAT YOU WERE IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE LAW BY NOT SIGNING ANY NEW CONTRACTS FOLLOWING THE INVASION.

A: THERE WERE NO NEW COMMITMENTS, NO NEW SALES, NO NEW CREDITS, NO NEW GUARANTEES. I CAN'T REMEMBER ANY OF THE OTHER DETAILS OFF THE TOP OF MY HEAD, BUT THIS IS WHAT I SAID THE LAST TIME.

Q: NOW, SINCE YOU HAVE BEEN IN COMPLIANCE --

A: WELL, WE ARE IN COMPLIANCE NOW AND WILL BE IN COMPLIANCE.

Q: --WHAT DO YOU PROPOSE TO DO IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO RESUME SHIPMENT OF ARMS?

A: WELL, AS I MENTIONED EARLIER, THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY HAD A MEETING TODAY ON THE SUBJECT, WHICH WAS VERY PRECISELY STATED BY THE WHITE HOUSE YESTERDAY: THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WANTS TO URGE CONGRESS TO

RECONSIDER ITS ACTION AND AUTHORIZE A RESUMPTION OF OUR
ASSISTANCE RELATIONSHIP WITH TURKEY.

NOW, THERE WAS A MEETING THIS MORNING IN THE WHITE HOUSE
BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY AND THE CHAIRMEN
AND RANKING MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND
SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEES TO TRY AND WORK OUT
A COOPERATIVE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM THAT YOU JUST

MENTIONED. I DO NOT KNOW WHAT THE DELIBERATIONS CONSISTED
OF. BUT, OBVIOUSLY, THERE IS A DESIRE TO TRY AND RESOLVE
THE PROBLEM THAT YOU MENTIONED. UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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